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Their memory left a type and a desire :
 So should I wish towards the light to rise,
 Instructing younger spirits to aspire
 Where I could never reach amidst the skies,
 And joy below to see them lifted higher,
 Seeking the light of purest glory's prize :
 So would I look on splendor's brightest day
 With an undazzled eye, and steadily
 Soar upward full in the immortal ray,
 Through the blue depths of the unbounded sky,
 Portraying wisdom's matchless purity ;
 Before me still a lingering ray appears,
 But broken and prismatic, seen through tears,
 The light of joy and immortality."

Though most of the papers and letters in this volume are of comparatively little interest and value, we think that they leave in the reader's mind a higher idea of Davy's personal character, and of his uniform devotion to science, than has been sometimes entertained. His reputation in his own day was very great ; and his lecture-room was a place of fashionable resort. But it has sometimes been doubted whether this fame had a solid foundation. De Quincey somewhere says, "Of all the eminent persons whom I have ever seen, even by a casual glimpse, Davy was the most agreeable to know on the terms of a slight acquaintance" ; and he further expresses the opinion, that this impression would not have been altered for the worse on a closer connection. From Davy's private and familiar correspondence it is easy to discover those personal qualities which made him so popular in the lecture-room and in society ; and it is also clear that even in the midst of social enjoyments, and when most immersed in fashionable life, he did not relax his interest in scientific pursuits. He still prosecuted his researches with that persistent energy which gave him a place, as Lord Brougham happily expresses it, "highest among all the great discoverers of his time." It is on his discoveries, rather than on his lectures or his printed papers, that his fame must rest.

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9. — *Dictionnaire Universel des Contemporains, contenant toutes les Personnes notables de la France et des Pays Etrangers, avec leurs Noms, Prénoms, Surnoms, et Pseudonymes, le Lieu et la Date de leur Naissance, leur Famille, leurs Débuts, leur Profession, leurs Fonctions Successives, leurs Grades et Titres, leurs Actes Publics, leurs Œuvres, leurs Ecrits et les Indications Bibliographiques qui s'y rapportent, les Traits caractéristiques de leur Talent, etc.* Ouvrage

rédigé et continuellement tenu à jour, avec le Concours d'Écrivains et de Savants de tous les Pays, par G. VAPEREAU, ancien Élève de l'Ecole Normale, Ancien Professeur de Philosophie, Avocat à la Cour Impériale de Paris. Paris: Hachette. 1858. 8vo grand. pp. 1814.

It is hardly possible to over-estimate the immense labor and difficulty of making a good dictionary of living celebrities. In a proper biographical dictionary, which is mainly concerned with the dead, the materials are found in libraries and in published works, and the labor is mostly that of selection and condensation. But in the case of those whose story has not yet been written, there is far greater embarrassment. Only a correspondence fearful to think of can procure for any editor, or any set of editors, the necessary materials. This Herculean work, to which M. Vapereau devoted himself for four years, with an extraordinary fidelity, perseverance, and skill, has at last been given to the public, and accomplished so far as a really endless task ever can be.

M. Vapereau's qualifications for editing such a work are modestly stated in the short notice of him contained in the book itself. He was born in 1819; was first a student in the College of Orleans, where he took the first prize for philosophy in 1838; afterward a pupil of the Normal School; then Private Secretary to Cousin; then Professor of Philosophy in the College of Tours, where he published an octavo in defence of modern metaphysical science; and, in 1854, he was appointed by Messrs. Hachette to superintend this great encyclopædia of contemporary biography. The execution of the work fully vindicates their choice. An examination, frequently renewed, and for hours together, enables us to say that it is wonderfully exact, and far nearer completeness than any one could have expected in a work of such difficulty. There are mistakes, of course, but they are much slighter and fewer than in most biographical dictionaries that we have examined. The book, on the whole, is an amazing monument of industry, patience, candor, good judgment, and good taste. It is a book of facts, not of fine writing; yet the sketches are not so condensed as to become dry or obscure. We say decidedly, that we have never owned a book of reference which we have used so often, or with such satisfaction, within the same length of time. It accomplishes more nearly what it pretends to accomplish, than any cyclopædia of biography that we have ever seen.

Of course, the mistakes and omissions in the American department of the work are those which we shall most readily notice. We are

surprised to learn that Utica is in Massachusetts; that Hillard is an editor of the North American Review; that Caleb Cushing has been a Senator in Congress; and that Holmes as a poet lacks inspiration. We marvel that, while two columns are given to Franklin Pierce, the name of Benjamin Peirce, one of the few Americans who are members of the Royal Society, should be wholly omitted. We look in vain for the names of the astronomers Bond, father and son, though these are frequently mentioned in the pages of French scientific journals. While Munk and Salvador receive careful attention, no mention is made of the American Rabbi Raphall, whose History is at least as important as theirs. The omission of William Lloyd Garrison, one of the representative men, not only of America, but of a leading movement of the age, seems unaccountable. Even more strange is the omission of some names from the English department, as, for instance, the theologians Jowett and Stanley, the physiologist W. B. Carpenter, the historian Buckle, and the preacher Spurgeon. We miss some important names also from the German list, — Böhringer of Zurich, Hilgenfeld of Tübingen, Philippssohn of Magdeburg, Spiegel the linguist, Mohr the chemist, and many others.

But such defects as these are insignificant, compared with the many and signal excellences of this magnificent work. We trust that the other cyclopædias which Hachette proposes to publish may be as successful as this.

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10. — 1. *Les Fiancés du Spitzberg.* Par X. MARMIER. Paris : Hachette. 1859. 18mo. pp. 422.
 2. *L'Homme de Neige.* Par GEORGE SAND. 8 Parties. *Révue des Deux Mondes*, Juin à Septembre, 1858.

THE high latitudes ought not, one might think, to offer a very attractive field to novel-writers. Ice islands, frozen mist, nine months of winter, and a thermometer forty degrees below zero, are hardly congenial with the passion of love. Yet the books at the head of this notice prove that as entertaining romances may be constructed with boreal scenery as with that of Italy or Palestine. The narratives of Bayard Taylor, of Dr. Kane, and of Lord Dufferin furnish ample material which none understand better how to work than the *feuilleton* artists of Paris. George Sand's last novel, in which the scene is laid amid the snows of a Swedish winter, is in some respects the best work of that strong and gifted writer. Its moral tone is pure, its philosophy is elevated, its pictures of character and manners are admirably exact, its